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HOUSE MEMORIAL 79

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Elias Barela

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO FUND VETERANS' HEALTH CARE SERVICES
FULLY.

WHEREAS, the federal department of veterans affairs'
mission and motto is "to care for him who has borne the battle,
and for his widow and orphan"; and

WHEREAS, President George Washington stated, "The
willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in
any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly
proportionate to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars
were treated and appreciated by their country"; and

WHEREAS, whenever the United States military has been
called upon to send forces into harm's way, including sons and
daughters of our great state, they have proudly answered the
call; and

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1 WHEREAS, we, as United States citizens, have promised our
2 troops through military enlistment contracts comprehensive,
3 quality accessible health care for those veterans honorably
4 discharged from the United States military, past, present and
5 future; and

6 WHEREAS, although the legislative bodies of our government
7 at all levels have recognized the importance of supporting
8 those who serve our great country, legislation itself has
9 fallen short of meeting the health care needs of our veterans.
10 The current discretionary funding mechanisms for veterans'
11 health care is beset by numerous flaws, preventing many
12 veterans from receiving the quality health care they earned and
13 deserve; and

14 WHEREAS, on March 16, 2006, the United States senate voted
15 down mandatory funding for veterans' health care services that
16 would have insured mandatory funding for our veterans' health
17 care needs; and

18 WHEREAS, a federal government accountability office report
19 in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources experienced by the
20 federal veterans health administration and its understaffed
21 workforce as they attempt to process an increasing backlog of
22 our veterans' claims; and

23 WHEREAS, Anthony Principi, former federal secretary of
24 veterans affairs, has publicly stated that the department of
25 veterans affairs has been struggling to provide promised health

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1 care services to the rapidly rising number of veterans
2 requiring health care services;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that its members, as
5 proud citizens of this great nation, fully support mandatory
6 funding for veterans' health care services; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States house of
8 representatives and the United States senate be requested to
9 ensure that the health care obligations to our veterans be
10 recognized and that legislation be introduced and passed for
11 signing by the president of the United States to guarantee full
12 mandatory funding of veterans' health care services; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the president of the United States and to the
15 members of New Mexico's congressional delegation.

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